

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on the attached Form PTO-1449. A copy of each document so listed, together with its English-language abstract, is attached.

JP 8-16803
JP 5-81399
JP 4-51189
JP 8-287050
JP 3-071191
JP 1-130261

These documents were cited during prosecution of two Japanese patent applications corresponding to the above U.S. application. Copies of the Japanese Office Actions, which are both dated December 18, 2006, are attached.

In view of this date, it is hereby certified under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) that each document in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

The Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing and returning a copy of the attached Form PTO-1449.

It is noted that this application has received a final action. Accordingly, this Information Disclosure Statement is accompanied by the requisite \$180.00 fee.